

Is Eilat an occupied territory ?



The resort city of Eilat is not classified as occupied territory under international law. However, its status is disputed by some who trace historical claims to the area. It is recognized as part of Israel by the United Nations and most countries.

- Historical background:

*** Armistice and founding (1949):**

The area where Eilat is located, known historically as Umm al-Rashrash, was captured by the Israel Defense Forces in 1949. Shortly after, the Israeli city of Eilat was founded. The area was designated for the Jewish state in the 1947 UN Partition Plan.

Egyptian claim: Some historical accounts and sources, particularly from Egypt, claim the area was considered Egyptian territory based on a 1906 Ottoman decree that defined the border.

Territorial disputes: Following the 1967 Six-Day War, the conflict over territory was based on UN Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in that conflict.

Since Israel occupied the Eilat area in 1949 and not 1967, this resolution does not apply to Eilat.

*** Peace with Egypt (1979):**

The 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt solidified the border and affirmed Israeli sovereignty over the Eilat area.

- Current status:

*** Disputed legitimacy:**

Some, including Palestinian and other Arab sources, may refer to Eilat as occupied territory in reference to the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

*** International recognition:**

The United Nations and the international community recognize Eilat as part of Israel based on the 1949 armistice lines and subsequent peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan.

- History:

Eilat has a long history as an ancient copper-trading hub mentioned in the Bible, but its modern history began in 1949 when Israeli forces captured the area, which was then named Eilat from the nearby biblical site. The city grew significantly after the 1956 Suez Crisis, the opening of a port in 1955 and 1965, and its official city status in 1959, developing into a key port and tourist destination.

- Ancient history:

*** Biblical and ancient past:**

The area was known as Elath and is mentioned in the Bible as a station for the Israelites and a site where King Solomon built ships. It was strategically important and had a history of copper mining, especially in the nearby Timna Valley.

Archaeological evidence dates back to prehistoric times.

*** Roman and Byzantine periods:**

The Romans built a road connecting Eilat to Petra, further fueling trade. The area saw a period of prosperity based on copper and trade, which was later disrupted by wars around 700-1200 CE.

Later historical periods: The area was occupied by various groups, including the Crusaders, Mamluks, and Ottomans, before the British took control.

*** Establishment in 1949:**

After the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Israeli forces captured the area, formerly known as Umm al-Rashrāsh. The new name, Eilat, was chosen to connect to the biblical site.

*** Early development:**

Initially, the town was a small community for port and military workers. The first port was built in 1955, followed by the "New Port" in 1965.

*** Growth in the 1950s and 1960s:**

The city saw significant growth after the Suez Crisis in 1956, which made Eilat Israel's only access to the Red Sea. Roads and domestic flights connected the city, boosting tourism and development.

*** City status:**

Eilat was officially declared a city in 1959.

*** Contemporary Eilat:**

Today, Eilat is a major tourist destination and a strategic port city on the border with Jordan and Egypt.

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<https://archive.org/details/@wazefapress>

Resources:

<https://eilat.city/en/history-of>

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<https://www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/middle-east/israel/eilat/history/>

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<https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/military-history-and-science/united-nations-security-council-adopts-resolution>

https://satellites.pro/Google_plan/Eilat_map

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire

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